

SOLOMON TALBOT COLLECTION
Original MS BY SOLOMON TALBOT
LIFE OF GEN'L BENJ. TUPPER
OF STOUGHTON

Presented by EDMUND H. TALBOT ESQ. 1945

Benja Tupper was born in Sharon Mar 11 1738

He was the youngest of eight children seven sons and one daughter. He was apprenticed to a tanner by the name of Welkington in Dorchester until he was sixteen years old. After leaving Dorchester he worked on a farm of Joshua Howard in Easton with whom he continued to reside the most of his time until he was married.

at the commencement of the French war he engaged as a private soldier in the army most of the time for two or three years. Except the winter of 1756-7 when he acted as Clerk of a company in the Eastern arm. He taught the district

School two or three winters during or soon after the war.

He was married in Easton Nov, 18/762 to Huldah White with whom he had long been acquainted. She was a woman of extraordinary talents eminently fitted for the trials and difficulties through which they were called to pass in the latter period of life. She died at Springfield now Putnam Ohio on the 21 of Feb. 1812.

At the commencement of the Revolution Gen. Tupper was a Lieut. of the Militia at Cheshirefield.

His first military duty was stopping the Supreme Court under the authority of the Crown at Springfield under the command of Major Hatley of Northampton In 1775 held the rank of Major of a Regiment of six month men near Boston.

While here he collected a number of boats for an expedition to Castle Island in Boston Harbor. They passed with muffled oars close to the British feet and burnt the Lighthouse brought off considerable light property and returned safe without the loss of a man.

the crew built the lighthouse and Mayn Jupper
burnt it the second time

after his return he wrote the following letter
to Gen Ward. Chelsea Wednesday 10 o'clock P.M.

"Sir By Lieut Shepherd you will receive two horses
and eleven head of Cattle taken from Governors Island
I obeyed orders in burning the Boat. If you should
think I went too much beyond in burning the house
hope you will suspend hard thoughts until I am so
happy as to see you

I was not so lucky as to find any of liberty
was so unhappy as to a number of horses on the Island
what I conceive I can give a sufficient reason
for. My party is all well, in good spirits, the wind very
high, shall return to Camp as soon as possible
— must humbly beg the favor of the Correl horse
if you judge in your known candor that I deserve
him. As the cattle too were not taken in the enemy's
camp I conceive they belong to the party

I am with the highest esteem your honor's most
Obedient humble Servant

Benjn Jupper

To the Hon Gen Ward. In Washington letters Vol II P 20
the following account of one of these expeditions will
be found. The second destruction of the light house
See in another account

The following winter an incident occurred which serves
to illustrate the character of Gen Jupper for cool deliberate
courage which he possessed in an eminent degree

Three men were out in a boat fishing the wind
shifted and ^{broken} ice blocked up their way completely
their situation was one of great danger — The wind
blew severely cold and the ^{men} must have perished in
sight of thousands had not Gen Jupper ^{approach} taken ^{the order} three
^{three} pairs of snow shoes, putting on one pair and taking
one pair under each arm made his way for the boat
over the floating ice fitting a pair to the feet of the two men
and encouraging them other brought them all safe to the shore

in the letter above at a glance

In 1776 Gen Zupper commanded a Regiment of six
months men. Zupper and his own Regiment ^{were} brought
off of Governor's island without the loss of a man ^{near N.Y.}

The next military event in which Gen Zupper
was engaged in August 1776 when he was sent in
command of a number of gunboats upon North
river. Gen Washington makes honorable mention
of this engagement as follows

The Inclosed copy of a letter from Col Zupper
who had the General command of the Gallies will
inform Congress of the Engagement between them
and the Ships of War of the North river on Saturday
evening and of the damage sustained
What injury they sustained I am not informed
It is said they were hulled several times by our fleet
all accounts agree that our officers and men during
the whole affair behaved with great spirit and
bravery. The damage done our galley shows they had
a warm time of it. —

In the Campaign of 1777 Col Zupper served with the
Regiment in the Northern army under Gates
What part he took in the battle of Bemis heights is
not known he was at a Council after the battle —
upon the left wing which fell back half a mile was
held until after Burgoyne's surrender

In 1778 Col Zupper served under Gen Washington
at the battle of Monmouth June 28th when he had
a horse shot under him

In 1780 he had charge of the work of preparing and
stretching a chain across the Hudson at West Point

In May 1781 Col Zupper returned to his family on
furlough

In the Campaign of 1781 the Indian and refugees
in Northern New York threatened the Northern families
a Regiment of Massachusetts troops were sent against

that Gen Stark sent for Van Rensselaer and Tupper and Munton of New York while they were waiting for the enemy the news of Cornwallis's surrender reached them ^{about} at the close of the war Col Tupper was appointed to the rank of Brigadier General by Brevet.

During the darkest period of the Revolutionary war Gen. Washington had turned the attention of Officers and ~~soldiers~~ ^{place of} soldiers to the Valley of the Ohio as a refuge to which they might retire should the British army be successful against them.

The result of the war rendered such a retreat unnecessary, notwithstanding many of the Officers and soldiers of the army looked to the West as a safe retreat for themselves and families after the war.

In 1785 Gen Rufus Putnam had been appointed to survey the land but being engaged elsewhere Gen Tupper came as far west as Pittsburg he returned home in the winter of 1785 & 86 but left in June the same year 1786 with his eldest son Major Anselm Tupper — They published in a paper —

As a result a company was formed The Ohio Company —

When Gen Tupper returned from the west after completing the survey of seven ranges.

— Shay Insurrection broke out. The duty of calling out the militia devolved on Gen. Shepherd who acted under the Governor's orders. Gen Tupper offered his services as voluntary aid. fifteen from Chester offered their service, Gen Tupper had been appointed a Justice of the Peace two years previous and as a magistrate administered the oath of allegiance and after arriving at Springfield under orders of Gen. Shepherd took charge of the organization of the different Companies as they arrived.

He organised a small troop of horse under Capt Buffington

By some means Tupper obtained a letter containing the plan of attack on the part of Shays Gen Tupper went to work and fortified the place

Shays although repeatedly warned not to approach advanced cannon were fired over his troop but this was disregarded. At last a field piece was brought to bear upon the insurgents and the first shot killed four. They immediately broke ranks and fled

Gen Tupper began his ^{own} arrangements for moving to the Ohio in the summer of 1787 Two wagons were built one for the family one for the baggage with his own family including that of his son in law Ichabod Nye they made their way to the Ohio River at Wellsburg (Buffal)

Judge Tupper presided as justice of the Courts until his death in 1792 June

At early life Gen Tupper made a public profession of the Christian Religion uniting with the Church at Easton Mass

Gen Tupper had seven children three sons and four daughters

From Northampton Mass to Greenbush NY
was, through a wilderness with but one house
the whole distance except a little fort 1788

after leaving they marched off silently
the distance to Hoosuck fort was about 30 miles
the snow was deep, The second day was a snow
storm they became bewildered and encamped
two Turkeys were killed during the day but the
day passed and they believed they were lost
the fourth day the march was continued
The weather was excessively cold on fifth day
the men froze their feet. It happened they
had with them one dog and only one
At night they concluded to kill him for
supper on the morning of the seventh day
the men breakfasted on one of the dogs
and they supped on the thigh bone of the dog
on the eighth day they met some men from
the fort who were looking for them





